



COMMITTEE of the WHOLE

CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES
April 20, 2009
4:45 P.M.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

V. Spencer, D. Sterner, M. Goodman-Hinnershitz, M. Baez, S. Marmarou, S. Fuhs

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

L. Kelleher, S. Katzenmoyer, C. Younger, M. Mayes, D. Wright

Mr. Spencer, President of Council, called the Committee of the Whole meeting to order at 4:55 p.m.

I. CDBG Amendment – Allocation of Stimulus Funding

Mr. Mayes explained that the stimulus funding will be allocated to homelessness. He noted that the bulk of the funding will be assigned to Opportunity House. Opportunity House deals with 95% of the homeless in the City. There are approximately 650 homeless – 50% have drug issues. The 13% unemployment rate is exacerbating the situation.

Mr. Mayes stated that this is a three year program and will be used for services which are not available at this time.

Mr. Mayes reported that the County will be allocating 50% of its funding to Service Access Management and 50% to its prison release re-entry program.

Mr. Mayes added that the Homeless Coalition is in favor of this funding plan.

Mr. Marmarou questioned how long a person must be a resident in order to receive benefits from these programs. Mr. Mayes was unsure of the timeline but noted that the City and the Coalition will be monitoring the program.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz questioned if this funding was separate from the general CDBG budget. Mr. Mayes indicated that it was. He also noted that the Coalition has requested \$20,000 to allow their director to work full-time hours.

Mr. Fuhs questioned if the City would be evaluating and monitoring the programs. Mr. Mayes indicated that they would.

Mr. Fuhs informed Mr. Mayes that he was employed by the PA Department of Health during September 11. He stated that agencies were scrambling to spend money and much was wasted. He questioned the frequency of the evaluations. Mr. Mayes noted that the City will be using 5% of the allocation to create a position to monitor the program very closely.

Ms. Goodman-Hinnershitz noted the need for both short term and long term goals.

Mr. Mayes reported that in addition to funding for Opportunity House, an allocation will be made to the City Human Relations Commission to pursue landlord/tenant issues.

Mr. Spencer questioned if an RFP would be necessary to allocate the funding. Mr. Mayes will research this issue and report back to Council.

II. Executive Session

Council entered executive session at 5:14 pm to discuss personnel issues. Council exited executive session at 5:50 pm.

The meeting adjourned at 5:51 pm.

Respectfully Submitted
Linda A. Kelleher, CMC
City Clerk